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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 17 March 2010 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to transmit a copy of a note verbale dated 17 March 2010 (see annex) that has been sent by the United States Mission to the United Nations to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations as a response to its note of 1 March 2010 (see A/AC.154/389, annex) regarding a spontaneous demonstration at that Mission's premises.

I request that you circulate the attached diplomatic note as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Russell F. **Graham**
Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs

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Annex to the letter dated 17 March 2010 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and wishes to address its concerns about the demonstration which occurred in front of the Mission on Sunday, 28 February. The United States Mission deeply regrets any inconvenience which resulted from this incident. The United States Mission understands, however, that the New York City Police Department responded within 10 minutes to a call about this incident, and moved the demonstrators to a more suitable location that was across the street and away from the entrance to the Permanent Mission.

The United States takes its responsibilities seriously under both the United Nations Headquarters Agreement and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations regarding the need to protect the security of foreign missions to the United Nations. Spontaneous demonstrations occur and are legal under local law, but the United States Mission believes that the New York City Police Department responds to incidents involving diplomatic missions to the United Nations as quickly and forcefully as it is able in order to manage demonstrations appropriately and in accordance with law. Furthermore, the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service New York Field Office will continue to work with the New York City Police Department to ensure that an adequate level of protection is provided to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and its personnel.